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1508/1020

LETTER

FROM

Sir R* * * * d C* * * *

To a CERTAIN

GREAT MAN AND HIS SON,

ON

The present STATE OF AFFAIRS IN
IRELAND.

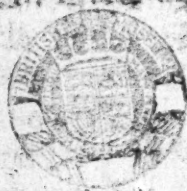
W. & H.

DUBLIN;

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LETTER

TO THE



THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

L E T T E R, &c.

IN the present Crisis of our Country's Affairs, he must not only be obscure, but dead, who can be uninformed of the Designs against it, or unsollicitous about the Events may happen. When the Mask is taken off, which has long been kept on, and Projects set on Foot which were uniformly disown'd; when, after having been long suspected, and solemnly disclaim'd, they are openly push'd on by all the Arts of Corruption and the Weight of Power, Men can no longer hope to impose on our Credulity, or disguise by their Words, what their Actions make evident.

It is the Artifice of all who are in Favour, or expect it, to clamour against such as suspect a Ministry of any evil Designs. For two Years past we have heard of nothing but the Wickedness of vile Incendiaries, and malignant Opposers to the best of Governors! desperate Wretches! who would imbroil the State by insinuating Mischief, and alarming the People with pretended Fears! Have they not told us they have nothing to ask, and can we possibly suspect the Purity of their Intentions? To whom, in my Opinion, the Answer would be pertinent, that the Dutch Burgomaster gave to Lewis XIV. 'I know all you can do, and you know what you intend to do.'

Is it nothing to ask us, to alter the Constitution? to make Concessions that will be eternal Precedents? that we not only assent to Alterations made

for us, and the Urgency of Affairs may render necessary once to comply with, but, to complete the Rule, that we begin it ourselves, and establish it into Law and Right for ever? Is this no Attempt that ought to put us on our Guard, make us deaf to Assurances, and give their Promises to the Wind?

In a Constitution like ours, all Concessions must be fatal, and every Right that is unasserted, or given up, must be, and will be, irrecoverably lost. The Principles of our Constitution are not originally in ourselves, and it never can be mended, by resolving to them again. Whatever we allow, and consent, we should be made, in that Condition we must remain for ever, without Hope or Possibility of Remedy. We have no Root of our own, and are only grafted on another Stock; and if left to abide where at first we took Growth, may live and flourish; but will languish and dye, if our Situation be changed. Ireland is now no longer a Succor that drains the Moisture from the Parent Root, without increase or producing Fruit, but a thriving Branch if duly cultivated, and profitable as any that the Tree can boast; but still it is a Branch, and, if once it withers, will not revive again.

England sprung from a native Root, has within herself, all the Principles of her Constitution, and, in all the Changes and Injuries she has suffer'd, recurr'd to them again, when her Estate grew desperate. She rose like a Phoenix, when she was thought to be consumed; and the Experience of more than twenty Centuries have shewn, that neither foreign Invasions, or domestick Oppressions, the Knavery of Ministers, or the Tyranny of Princes, are able to suppress that Spirit of Liberty by which she originally was founded, and which has preserved her to the last of all the Kingdoms in Europe, where any Freedom remains.



One Part of her Liberty, and one only, has been granted to Ireland, viz. to give the King Supplies by a Representative chosen by the People, for on that depends, and from that follows, every other Right and Property we enjoy: If that Right be given up, and we voluntarily divest ourselves of it, how do we differ from the most despotic State? or with what Propriety can we be said to possess any thing? if, instead of the People granting to the King, we acquiesce in the King's granting to the People, then the People, and their Property are his for ever. They are in the same Condition with the Subjects of Morocco, and may be legally converted to the same Uses. And, in my Apprehension, if such an Attempt had succeeded in this Country, it had been our Happiness to have been born Blacks, and have a Sancho for our Governor, to sell us wholesale to the Indies; we could lose nothing by Transmigration, and should gain a better Climate to comfort our Spirits.

What a Train of desperate Councils, and odious Measures have been pursued for the Space of three Years, to botch the bungling Mischief they had made, and cram down a Dose that must work our Dissolution? Thanks be to Heaven they have fail'd as yet; and the Soundness of our Constitution has eminently appear'd, and master'd the Poison they administer'd.

A national Strength is never known till try'd; and the Struggle we have had, will convince our Enemies, that Property united with Honesty, will be too strong for the venal Efforts of Poverty, and the influence of exhausted Corruption. Corruption seems now to have done her worst among us; too weak to proceed, and too barefaced to lie hid. Exposed, detected, and defeated, she can hardly hope to raise her Head again, or recover Credit with her most devoted Friends. Bankrupt, can she

the hope for Credit? and pennyless, can she give security? Will Promises pass for current Coin, when given without Authority, and received without Confidence?

Men, at such a Juncture, must not only be without Honesty, but without Sense, to be made again the Tools of undone Ambition, and do the Work of Iniquity without the Wages of Prostitution.

With what Face these Gentlemen can meet their Constituents, on another Occasion, must be left to themselves; but one would think it must be an awkward Micoring, and with an ill Grace will they ask for Favours after Confidence abused, and Trust betray'd.

In all Debates have ever happen'd in this Kingdom, till this last Period of desperate Ambition, there was some Pretence, or colourable Evasion, for Apostasy and Infidelity; and to say Truth, for thirty Years past, the Occasions were not equal for defending or plundering with Alacrity.

When the Duke of Grafton came here, he ask'd nothing but the ordinary Supplies, recommended little more than a Care of the Linen Manufacture, and the Speaker of the House of Commons carry'd every thing quietly, and to general Satisfaction. Lord Carteret, it is well known, was made Lord Lieutenant, with no other View but to get him out of his Office, where, it seems, he was not agreeable to the Minister; and tho' the Activity of his Genius, and his Disposition to Levity, made him affect Intrigue, and put on a Face of Mystery and Business, yet it soon appear'd to be but a copy of his Countenance, and that he had nothing in charge more than what was usual: And to speak Truth, Ireland at that Time was hardly worth undoing, and forced to run in Debt to maintain her Lists, which may be an Apology for that Nobleman's conduct

conduct, and indemnify him in the Opinion of his Friends, who might otherwise be inclined to think meanly of his Parts, as one who did not know what belong'd to his Business, or deserve the great character he had acquired, tho' very unjustly, of doing well for himself.

His Excellency, however, let Things run on in the usual channel, and the Feint he made of substituting the Chancellor and Primate in the Room of the Speaker, and administering his Government by them, turn'd out to be no more than a Piece of State Wagery, and seem'd only design'd to testify the contempt in which he had both them and the Kingdom.

His Successor, it is certain, gave no Offence, or any cause of suspicion in the first Years of his Administration; and the Attempt made to get granted some Revenue for Twenty-one Years, was not of his promoting; nor was it rightly understood without Deceit, where it was generally thought to include all the Revenue granted to his Majesty, and raised a groundless clamour of a Design to lay Parliaments aside for the Term intended. His G—'s present Administration need not be mention'd. To write a Panegyrick on it, would be like praising one to his Face; and to say any Thing short of the Testimony his M—y has borne and testify'd of his G—'s conduct in every high station he has occupy'd, were presumption in any private person (however respectable,) much more in a Plebian; and, in effect, were to contradict the united sense of all, whom his M—y has thought fit to honour with his confidence, and trust with his commands.

Our late Vicegerent may also be pass'd by for Reasons, tho' not so cogent, yet, in some Degree respectable, as he not only carry'd with him the Approbation of the people whom he govern'd,
but

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but was remember'd with Honour when he exercis'd
that power, and his M^y's choice most gratefully
acknowledg'd by those; from whom only his
M^y expected a Representation to be made: It
shall, therefore, only for of his Excellency, that
he attempted no charge in the plan of power
deliver'd down to him.

After this view of the Course which has been
steer'd by so many of our Governors, in such dif-
ferent situations, I believe, you will think it pretty
natural to enquire, what can be the Motives that
should induce any succeeding Governor to shape
another Course, which we are told (but I hope
without Authority) is intended. Is it on public
or private considerations, that power must be di-
verted from a channel where it ran smoothly on
for many Years past? Has the public Welfare
declin'd, or his Majesty's Revenue been lessen'd,
under the usual Administration here? No such
Thing. The Kingdom has prospered in a few
Years beyond Expectation, and beyond Example.
Has his Majesty's hereditary Revenue, and which
may be call'd his privy purse, been lessened, or
his Assignments on it refused? On the contrary:
it is much greater by the increase of inhabitants,
and, consequently of Hearth-Money; and all
Over-drawings are cheerfully comply'd with.
Has our prosperity been a detriment to our Mo-
ther Country? Impossible; as we go on different
Trade, and our Wealth is poured into her as fast
as she will receive it.

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